

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN MIKE TAYLOR**, on March 18, 1999
at 3:20 P.M., in Room 402 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Mike Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Tom A. Beck (R)
Sen. Al Bishop (R)
Sen. William Crismore (R)
Sen. Steve Doherty (D)
Sen. Pete Ekegren (R)
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Eve Franklin (D)
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
Sen. Chuck Swysgood (R)
Sen. Jack Wells (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Ken Mesaros, Chairman (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch
Adrienne Pillatzke, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 438, 3/18/1999; HB 440,
3/18/1999; hb 633, 3/18/1999
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HB 438

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE BILL EGGERS, HD 6, Crow Agency

Proponents: Brian Lipscomb, Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Mike Fox, Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Donald Meyers, Chippewa Cree Tribe at Rocky Boy
Ira Newbreast, Blackfeet Tribe, Fish, Wildlife and
Parks

Opponents: Arnie Olsen, Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Dino Fanelli, MT Bowhunters Association

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE BILL EGGERS, HD 6, Crow Agency, commented on excess tax statutes. Montana has received millions of dollars from tax revenue for decades. The habitat for fishing and wildlife off the reservation is better than it is on. He said HB 438 takes 7% of the tax revenue money and puts it into a commission and then the commission will disperse the money to the seven Montana tribes. Montana tribes at the present time represented 7% of the total state population. Fish, Wildlife and Parks had extended some money to the black-footed ferret and other small animals. He said the bill contained both a contingent voidness clause and a severability clause. They are asking 7% which is approximately \$750,000 a year. He entered a handout, **EXHIBIT(fis61a01)**. Greg Petesch's legal opinion was the bill did not divert any money from FWP and the federal government is not likely to cutoff the money because of alleged diverting. He entered and discussed two letters from Doug Sternberg, **EXHIBIT(fis61a02)** and **EXHIBIT(fis61a03)**. He entered and explained a letter from Joyce Johnson, **EXHIBIT(fis61a04)** and a letter from Roger Lloyd, **EXHIBIT(fis61a05)**.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 8.2}

Proponents' Testimony:

Brian Lipscomb, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, entered written testimony and a pamphlet, **EXHIBIT(fis61a06)** and testimony from Michael T. Pablo, **EXHIBIT(fis61a07)**.

Mike Fox, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, entered a resolution for HB 438, **EXHIBIT(fis61a08)**. Fort Belknap established a Fish and Wildlife program in 1989 with a \$50,000 grant from the federal government to manage 675,000 acres of land. They had made significant efforts in establishing a wildlife conservation herd, seasons and bag limits for tribal members as well as non members. Each year 800 nonmember hunters come to the reservation who

generate in excess of \$300,000 each year. He said it would benefit the resource.

Donald Meyers, Chippewa Cree Tribe at Rocky Boy, said the Chippewa Cree passed a Fish and Game program in 1988. The program allows nonmember hunting on the reservation. It is a limited hunt with only 15 tags per year. The Chippewa Cree tribe saw HB 438 as a win-win situation. The discussed the projects which the tribe is interested in establishing. The state of Montana has done a tremendous effort in promoting tourism as the tribes have as well.

Ira Newbreast, Blackfeet Tribe, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said they are trying to do effective wildlife management. He said HB 438 will allow them to accomplish effective wildlife management. They run into limitation of funds continually. He said HB 438 will allow them to do some good things which will benefit fish and wildlife.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 22.5}

Opponents' Testimony:

Arnie Olsen, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, provided written testimony, **EXHIBIT(fis61a09)**.

Dino Fanelli, MT Bowhunters Association, said the association opposed HB 438. Montana's Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks is funded by sportsmen's dollars. He said passage of the bill will result in a transfer of \$750,000 from FWP to the tribes. They don't believe it has been determined whether or not the bill fits the narrow federal guidelines for the allocation of these funds. He asked if it does, where does FWP go to replace the \$750,000 allocated to the tribes. All tribes have established treaties which provide hunting and fishing rights on public lands throughout Montana. It seemed equitable to them that Native Americans have and continue to benefit from established programs designed to maintain fish and wildlife populations throughout the state.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 33.1}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR ELLINGSON referred to a letter in **exhibit #9** and to page 2, line 10 of the bill. He said it seemed to him the bill would permit only funds to be used for eligible programs which would address the concern expressed in the first paragraph of the letter. He asked if he was missing something. **Arnie Olsen**

replied ultimately it is up the US Fish and Wildlife Service to decide what is eligible and what is not. They have to submit their projects and have to go through a screening process. He said that is what would have to happen if HB 438 was passed. He said technically FWP could run a project through but their opinion was it would be very difficult to find \$750,000 worth to develop the projects. **SENATOR ELLINGSON** said the writer of the letter was under a misunderstanding of at least one part of the bill. The letter made reference to the tribal government being subgrantees of the funds. He referred to page 2, lines 9-12. The funds do go to FWP and FWP only administers based upon the recommendations. He doesn't see any money going directly to the tribes. He asked if Arnie Olsen agreed with that. **Mr. Olsen** replied as they understand the correspondence and communication with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the only way they could receive funds would be a subgrantee of the agency. The funds would have to run through their agencies, they would have to be a subgrantee. He said FWP would have to maintain control of the funds.

SENATOR ELLINGSON said the department's position is that there aren't going to be any eligible projects that would qualify for this kind of federal aid. He asked Representative Eggers' for his opinion. **REPRESENTATIVE EGGERS** referred to a letter from Mary Grisner which suggested she said there is not anything illegal about the bill. She suggested there were some compliance problems with the bill. The question of getting the money legally from the Federal Government to the tribes and the answer is legally yes. He referred to page 2, line 10-14 of the bill. He said this was a state-wide opportunity because there are no fences or screens to keep game on the reservation. He explained a project in the Big Horn Mountains which was tracking elk in Wyoming and Montana and how the project is funded. He said it was absurd to say there are projects which can't be implemented at the present time.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

SENATOR CRISMORE asked if the bill was passed if it would open some doors for people who owned the land within the reservation boundaries so they would not have to have a tribal license to hunt on the private lands and the tribal lands for big game.

Brian Lipscomb replied a license by a nonmember to hunt or fish is both a state and a federal license. A nonmember who is recreating under the license exercising their ability uses those resources is doing so under state law as well as tribal laws. The tribes have had a long opposition to the use of big game resources by non tribal members within the reservation

boundaries, primarily because the tribes don't feel there are enough resources to allow that type of hunting.

SENATOR CRISMORE asked if Mr. Lipscomb thought there could be an agreement between the tribes and nonmembers to agree there needs to be some cooperation on moose issues in the Flathead area.

Brian Lipscomb said the tribes do cooperate with the state of Montana in managing the off reservation moose harvest by tribal members. They have regulations that regulate the tribal members and limit the harvest of moose by those members. They have a tagging system which tracks how many are harvested and where they are harvested. They submit the data to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to assist them in setting quotas.

SENATOR DOHERTY referred to **exhibit #3**. He asked if there would be any problem with any sovereignty issues or tribe sovereignty issues in complying with any of these particular statutes in order to qualify for the use of those particular federal funds.

REPRESENTATIVE EGGERS replied he didn't. There is hunting on the reservations by both the Indians and the non Indians but it is a permit of activity. The resistance of allowing non Indians to hunt on the reservation because there isn't enough game to feed a lot of the people who live on the reservation. The bill provided two things which insured there is compliance. First, he had a meeting with Mrs. Grisner to discuss the bill and the implications in order to facilitate federal aid without complications. Secondly, the sovereignty issue wasn't raised by her as a bar to funding. It was suggested that there has to be some type of compliance. The bill provides a compliance inspector which would be a Fish and Wildlife biologist. The tribes intent to comply with federal laws and cooperate with the federal aid in order to get the funds. There is a provision in the bill if there is not compliance within the appropriate time then the next year is cut off.

SENATOR DOHERTY asked if there are not enough projects which would qualify they would not spend the money. **REPRESENTATIVE EGGERS** responded he was correct. He was attempting to earmark 7% for the tribes. They have to put in the applications, comply with rules and regulations and get the program approved by the state and the federal government.

SENATOR DOHERTY asked about the \$1.5 million which would go to the tribes and asked how will the loss of money affect the department. **Arnie Olsen** replied the department doesn't agree the bill does not violate federal law. The department can take general license dollars and back fill. They are concerned it will accelerate the process of going to the general public to make up the difference in fee increase. Another concern is if

they set the money aside, because of not having projects eligible, then the department loses the money and it goes to another state.

SENATOR WELLS referred to line 15 and 16 of the bill which discussed how the council would have to provide money as matching funds. He asked where would the funds come from. **REPRESENTATIVE EGGERS** replied it is a staggering complex formula that the federal government came up with which it used to decide how much money is going to fund the state each year. There was some funding which required matching of funds by the tribe in order to get the money they need for certain projects.

SENATOR WELLS asked if the money used to match the federal money would come from the license sales or where would it come from. **REPRESENTATIVE EGGERS** replied there is no license money involved from the tribe, the state or the federal government.

SENATOR WELLS asked where the money is coming from to match the other non reimbursable projects. He asked if the money is coming from a separate fund which is approved through the sale of licenses. **REPRESENTATIVE EGGERS** replied he could not give any specifics on it. He does not know how the tribal government operates in the natural resource area. His guess is if the tribe had the matching funds that they would have to put the money up front and it would come from their internal tribal funds.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 17}

SENATOR SWYSGOOD referred to the letter from Mary Grisner and Section 4, subsection 3 of the bill. He said if the federal law stated the FWP must approve then the language is allowing for it to happen. He asked where is it in conflict with the federal law. **Arnie Olsen** referred the question to FWP's legal staff.

Bob Lane, FWP read Section 4, subsection 3. He said a restriction would be the FWP's ability to approve or disapprove a project. The bill contradicts the basic fundamental requirement of federal aid because it allows the tribal council to divide the money up or the projects.

SENATOR SWYSGOOD asked if the federal law says the state FWP must approve all projects which use the money. **Bob Lane** replied yes.

SENATOR SWYSGOOD asked is that not an applicable federal law.

Bob Lane replied is it an applicable federal law but to come to that conclusion, you would have to read the fact that the council is no longer in control of dividing up the money. The state is in charge of dividing up the money. He did not see the language in the bill which allows that. **SENATOR SWYSGOOD** said the way he reads the bill if FWP approves a project then the council would

divide up the money for the projects. **Bob Lane** replied the council can't divide up the money. The projects are reimbursed, they don't divide money up. He explained the process of funding the projects. The council can advise the FWP what projects they want but FWP has the authority to approve or disapprove the projects.

SENATOR SWYSGOOD said he thinks the language allows the FWP to approve the projects. He asked how the money is going to be divided. **REPRESENTATIVE EGGERS** replied he disagreed with Bob Lane. Federal law is applicable. The commission or council has to comply with it. He commented on the process of getting a project approved.

SENATOR TAYLOR said the reservation receives \$250,000 a year in licensing from members who buy licenses on the reservation. He asked if the money is used for wildlife enhancement programs. **Brian Lipscomb** replied the funds are never received by members but those are licensed sales to nonmembers under the cooperative FWP agreement. Those licensed dollars are earmarked. The numbers are in the report handed in as **exhibit #6**.

SENATOR TAYLOR asked what kind of quota is set on big game licenses for tribal members. **Brian Lipscomb** replied they have regulations for tribal member use both on and off reservation. He said within certain areas of the reservation there is specific license quotas. He discussed examples of quotas. He discussed where tribes practice subsistence hunting and why. **SENATOR TAYLOR** asked if tribal members buy a license on the reservation down on the reservation. **Mr. Lipscomb** replied no.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 28.4}

Closing by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE BILL EGGERS, HD 6, Crow Agency, responded to Senator Crismore and Senator Taylor's concerns. He replied to Arnie Olsen's testimony.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 31.8}

HEARING ON HB 440

Sponsor: **REPRESENTATIVE MATT BRAINARD, HD 62, Missoula**

Proponents: None.

Opponents: **Roland Deane, MT Houndsmen Association**

Tim Ravndal, Townsend
Arnie Olsen, Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Janet Ellis, MT Audubon
Denise Roth Barber, MT Sierra Club

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE MATT BRAINARD, HD 62, Missoula, said HB 440 has counties notification to the FWP of predator alert. He commented on two occurrences of children being attacked by mountain lions in Montana. The bill allows the board of county commissioners of the county to determine if the population of a predator species presents a increased threat to the public health, safety or welfare, then they can declare a predator alert and notify the FWP commission of the alert. The FWP commission can suspend restrictions license requirements and bag limits applicable to the problem predator species identified in the notification for a period not to exceed 12 months. During which time the commission shall analyze the situation in order to determine whether further corrective measures are needed.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony:

Roland Deane, MT Houndsmen Association, discussed the mountain lion situation in the Three Forks area.

Tim Ravndal, entered witness statement, **EXHIBIT(fis61a10)**.

Arnie Olsen, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, provided written testimony and other information, **EXHIBIT(fis61a11)**.

Janet Ellis, MT Audubon, entered a fact sheet on HB 440, **EXHIBIT(fis61a12)**.

Denise Roth Barber, MT Sierra Club, entered written testimony, **EXHIBIT(fis61a13)**.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 10}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR EKEGREN referred to **exhibit #11** which stated "provides the authority for a landowner to kill wildlife which are

molesting, assaulting, killing or threatened to kill a person or livestock. He asked how does it affect the endangered species or does it. **Arnie Olsen** replied if a livestock owner has a grizzly bear killing his livestock and shoots the bear. It is not against state law, it is federal law.

SENATOR WELLS asked why the bill was written to say they would suspend the license requirements or suspend restrictions.

REPRESENTATIVE BRAINARD replied his concept is the bill is for rural agricultural areas. It isn't very often an individual actually gets the opportunity to see one of these animals attacking their stock. He said it is a matter of opportunity for the landowner and neighbors to take care of a situation when it gets out of hand.

SENATOR WELLS said the way he sees the bill, if there were a problem with mountain lions then houndsmen would get more business. He noted Roland Deane is opposed to the bill. He asked if he doesn't want the opportunity for more business.

Roland Deane replied he is not in the business. He does it for sport. He said if it was opened to the public there will be an overkill.

SENATOR BECK commented on the county declaring a predator alert. He feels it is leaving a wide-open area. He asked what would happen with the process. **REPRESENTATIVE BRAINARD** replied he would hope with getting another government involved the FWP would take their responsibility better. He said now there is interaction between the county and the state.

SENATOR BECK asked if there was an incident with a mountain lion or bear which has attacked an individual, does the FWP respond as quickly as possible to destroy the animal. **Arnie Olsen** replied yes.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 18}

Closing by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE MATT BRAINARD, HD 62, Missoula, said the bill is a way to bring attention to the problem when it arises rather than waiting 6 to 8 months for hunting season to begin. He does not think the public will abuse it.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 19.6}

SENATOR BISHOP took over chair of the committee.

HEARING ON HB 633

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE ROD BITNEY, HD 77, Kalispell

Proponents: Charles Samuelson, Self
Patrick Heffernan, MT Logging Association
Cary Hegreberg, Wood Products Association
Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association
Mike Murphy, MT Water Resource Association and MT
Farm Bureau
Tim Ravndal, Townsend

Opponents: Arnie Olsen, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
Greg Munther, Self
Kirk Thompson, Self
Dino Fanelli, MT Bowhunters Association
Terry Mocabee, Friend of Wild Swan
Janet Ellis, MT Audubon
Jerry Wells, MT Trout Unlimited

Informational: Maggie Pittman, US Forest Service
Bill Putnam, US Forest Service

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE ROD BITNEY, HD 77, Kalispell, entered two amendments, **EXHIBIT(fis61a14)** and **EXHIBIT(fis61a15)**. He said HB 633 seeks to call a timeout on culvert removal on the United States Forest System Reclamation projects. The bill will require the procedures for review in issuance of the state 124 permit which allows culvert removal activities in primal streams be reviewed by the Environmental Quality Council. He said the review is necessary because many people believe the culvert removal activities are not being conducted in coordination with the parameters of Montana's Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act. The purpose of a field review is to ensure the proposed project designs will not adversely affect the streambed and banks, resident, migratory fish species or other aquatic resources. He explained the proposed amendments.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 25.4}

Proponents' Testimony:

Charles Samuelson, Self, entered written testimony, **EXHIBIT(fis61a16)**.

Patrick Heffernan, MT Logging Association, entered and explained handouts, **EXHIBIT(fis61a17)**.

Cary Hegreberg, Wood Products Association, said HB 633 is a symptom of the frustration people are feeling about the management direction of our national forest. The road obliteration was going on to protect grizzly bears. He said HB 633 is a mechanism for holding federal land managers accountable for the same standards the private sector and the state land managers abide by. The bill gave some review procedures to how they are issuing permits for a process of obliterating roads.

Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association, said the bill will try to get a handle on the double standard which is being exercised. He has concerned to whether it is a good idea. He gave an example of a situation in Yellowstone National Park. The problem was it is an agency which enforces water quality standards then under projects of their own, violate the quality standards.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

Mike Murphy, MT Water Resource Association and MT Farm Bureau, said they wanted to go on record opposing HB 633.

Tim Ravndal, Townsend, provided witness statement, **EXHIBIT(fis61a18)**.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.6}

Opponents' Testimony:

Arnie Olsen, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, entered written testimony, **EXHIBIT(fis61a19)**.

Greg Munther, Self, discussed removal of culverts on the national forest. He entered and explained photo packet, **EXHIBIT(fis61a20)**.

Kirk Thompson, Self, asked if the bill will reduce the cost of government and how does it make government more efficient. He explained his work with the Forest Service. There is a process already in place and it is working well.

Dino Fanelli, MT Bowhunters Association, said they see the bill more as a road closure issue, than a water quality issue. The association in the past, has supported road closures for the benefit they have in increasing wildlife habitat. They would like the committee to table HB 633.

Terry Mocabee, Friend of Wild Swan, said careful culvert removal releases small amounts of sediments into the stream which has an effect on the fish and water quality. The bill will increase more red tape.

Janet Ellis, MT Audubon, read the state statute 875-502. She said federal agencies don't have to get 124 permits. She said 875-508 only allows FWP to observe acts of omissions on the part of the government of the United States.

Jerry Wells, MT Trout Unlimited, said the obliteration of roads on Forest Service land has been a matter of concern to fishery biologists for many years. Roads are the leading producer in a conveyor of sediment to streams. He said in the last several years it has been a great deal of cooperative effort between the timber industry, conservation organizations and agencies to mitigate sediment in streams by closing and obliterating roads. He said long term effects of these closures will be to reduce sediment even though there might be short term increases. The passage of the bill will go in the opposite direction of the current effort to restore Bull Trout and hamper the efforts the timber industries, agencies and conservation organizations to reduce sediment a long term in the streams.

Informational Testimony:

Maggie Pittman, US Forest Service, noted they have a specialist from the Regional Office to provide information and testimony.

Bill Putnam, US Forest Service, said when it comes to road obliteration of culvert removal the technology does exist to do that without adding significant amounts of sediment into the streams. The FG 124 form which the Forest Service provides to the state is not a permit. The Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act does not apply to federal project funds on federal land. They are required by federal law to comply with the water quality laws.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 12.4}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR SWYSGOOD read 875-508. He asked how many formal notifications has the department sent to the appropriate federal agencies. **Arnie Olsen** replied he does not know how many they have done total and could get the information for them. **SENATOR SWYSGOOD** commented on the pictures in the handouts. It seemed to him if the department had this authority then they should have notified the agency in the incident. **Arnie Olsen** replied they

don't make the judgement on the road. They can't decide whether a road goes in or out. **SENATOR SWYSGOOD** replied he is not asking them to decide whether a road goes in or out. He would assume that this has something to do with the degradation of water quality. **Arnie Olsen** replied their job is to be advisory. He said if the decision had been made to remove a culvert, their job is to say how to take the culvert out to minimize impact to the fisheries. They have an obligation to notify the federal agency of those details. The bill would take the FWP out of being an advisor.

SENATOR DOHERTY asked if Mr. Putnam had seen Mr. Samuelson's testimony. **Bill Putnam** replied no he had not, but would like to. **SENATOR DOHERTY** said before the committee took any action, they need to know what the Forest Service was doing or not doing in those specific areas.

SENATOR BECK asked if there was policy on how the Forest Service goes about closing a road. He also asked if there are times when it is better to leave the culvert in the road than to remove it. **Bill Putnam** replied there is a process used to determine what roads will be kept and which ones will be removed. He said there are more roads than will ever be needed for future management. He said culvert failure is far worse than a bad job of removing a culvert. There has been a lot of research with Forest Service technology groups trying to figure out the best ways to remove culverts.

SENATOR DOHERTY asked what is the time limit for EQC to review the procedures and how extensive is the review. **REPRESENTATIVE BITNEY** referred the question to Patrick Heffernan. **Mr. Heffernan** thought the bill is a simple bill and thinks it could be a simple review of the procedures. He said the EQC needs to review the procedures for the 124 permits. He believed it could be done in one EQC meeting before the beginning of the next bill season for culvert removal which is September.

SENATOR DOHERTY asked if all we need is a review then why do we need the bill. **REPRESENTATIVE BITNEY** said the bill is simple and it is very necessary. He said because they are dealing with riparian areas, aquatic life and fisheries, that is why FWP is involved. He said if the federal government is adversely down grading water quality standards then the state has primacy to come in and enforce the standards. He explained a case where one permit was given for 41 road alterations.

SENATOR MCCARTHY asked if they need the two proposed amendments. **REPRESENTATIVE BITNEY** replied yes. **SENATOR MCCARTHY** asked if he

intends to submit the bill to EQC to see if they will study it.
REPRESENTATIVE BITNEY said yes.

SENATOR DOHERTY asked what is the double standard for water quality. **Bob Lane** replied the federal government requires the state to administer under its own programs water quality standards to their federal standards. They also require their own agencies to abide by the same water quality standards. He said there is no double standard.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 26.3}

Closing by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE ROD BITNEY, HD 77, Kalispell, explained the two types of culverts. He said they are concerned about the stream crossing culverts. He commented about the ownership of land near and around Kalispell. He said throughout Montana an estimated 2,000 miles of roads are scheduled for destruction or obliteration. He commented on the funding. He commented on the fuel heavy fuel loads which roads are needed to get fire fighting equipment in to fight the wildfires. He said there is a double standard. He commented on the issue of road closures for wildlife. He said there is a conservative estimate from the Wildlife Service and the FWP that there is over 35,000 grizzly bears in North America.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:05 P.M.

SEN. KEN MESAROS, Chairman

ADRIENNE PILLATZKE, Secretary

KM/AP

EXHIBIT(fis61aad)